

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 21-24 are newly added. Support for new claims 21-24 may be found throughout the original disclosure. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1-24 will remain pending in the patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Jenkins (U.S. Pat. No. 6,027,360) in view of Borzi *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,027,360) (hereinafter “Borzi”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites an electronic assembly, which comprises a wiring harness; connectors connected to the wiring harness; and a molded body formed to encapsulate the wiring harness and provide access to the connectors. As conceded by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action, Jenkins does not disclose, teach or suggest a molded body as recited in claim 1. However, Applicants respectfully submit that there are additional features that are absent in Jenkins.

For example, Jenkins does not disclose, teach or suggest an electronic assembly, which comprises, *inter alia*, a molded body formed to encapsulate the wiring harness and provide access to the connectors.

Jenkins merely discloses an apparatus for securing terminal connectors 18 (identified by the Office Action as being the “connectors” of claim 1) of a wire harness 22 (identified by the Office Action as being the “wiring harness” of claim 1) to the underside of an electrical junction block 88 (identified with the lower cover 74 of Jenkins as being the “body” of claim 1). (*See FIG. 1 of Jenkins*).

However, in Jenkins, the lower cover 74 and junction block 88 do not encapsulate the wire harness 22 because the lower cover 74 and the junction block 88 do not encase/enclose the wire harness 22. (*See definition in Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary (10th Edition) of the word “encapsulate”: “to enclose in or as if in a capsule”*). Rather, Jenkins merely discloses that the connectors 18 are arranged within the lower cover 74 and that the lower cover 74 includes U-shaped openings to receive the end portions of the wire harness 22 that are connected to the connectors 18. (*See col. 3, lines 20-25, 55-58 and col. 4, lines 10-13 and 19-22, and FIGS. 1-5 of Jenkins*). The lower cover 74 is then fitted to the underside of the junction block 88 such that the lower cover 74, the junction block 88 and connectors 18 are stationary with respect to one another and the wire harness can freely move and extend

outside the junction block 88. (*See col. 4, lines 34-39 and FIG. 5 of Jenkins*). Accordingly, unlike claim 1, Jenkins does not disclose, teach or suggest a body that encapsulates the wiring harness and provides access to the connectors.

Borzi fails to remedy the deficiencies of claim 1. Borzi merely discloses an assembly for receiving electrical connectors 56 of a wire harness. (*See col. 3, lines 13-30*). Borzi does not disclose, teach or suggest that the assembly is adapted to encapsulate the wire harness and provide access to the connectors. As such, any reasonable combination of Jenkins and Borzi cannot result in any way in the invention of claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Jenkins teaches away from the electronic assembly of claim 1. The language of claim 1 demands that the molded body be formed to (a) encapsulate the wiring harness and (b) provide access to the connectors. Jenkins teaches the opposite. In Jenkins, the junction block 88 and the lower cover 74 are adapted to (a) enclose the connectors 18 and (b) provide access to the wire harness 22. (*See, for example, FIG. 5 of Jenkins*). As such, it is respectfully submitted that Jenkins teaches away from the electronic assembly of claim 1. (*See MPEP 2145*).

Claims 2-16 are patentable over Jenkins, Borzi and a combination thereof at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein.

Claim 17 is patentable over Jenkins, Borzi and a combination thereof for at least similar reasons as provided in claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. Namely, claim 17 is patentable over Jenkins, Borzi and a combination thereof at least because this claim recites an electronic assembly comprising, *inter alia*, a molded body formed to encapsulate the wiring harness and to cover a portion of each of the plurality of connectors. As mentioned previously in the discussion related to claim 1, Jenkins and Borzi, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest a molded body formed to encapsulate the wiring harness and to cover a portion of each of the plurality of connectors. As such, any reasonable combination of Jenkins and Borzi cannot result, in any way, in the invention of claim 17.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Jenkins nor Borzi disclose, teach or suggest a molded body that encapsulates the wiring harness and that has sufficient strength and hardness to act as a frame that is configured to firmly hold the plurality of connectors and the wiring harness as one piece.

Unlike claim 17, Jenkins teaches that the end portions of the wire harness 22 are passed through U-shaped openings 80 of the lower cover 74 and that the connectors 18 are arranged with the lower cover 74 and the junction block 88. As can be seen, *e.g.*, in FIG. 5 of

Jenkins, the wire harness 22 is freely moveable and extends outside the junction block 88. As such, the lower cover 74 and the junction block 88 of Jenkins cannot constitute a body (that encapsulates the wiring harness) that has sufficient strength and hardness to act as a frame that is configured to firmly hold the plurality of connectors and the wiring harness as one piece.

Claims 18 and 19 are patentable over Jenkins, Borzi and a combination thereof at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 17 and for the additional features recited therein.

Claim 20 is patentable over Jenkins, Borzi and a combination thereof for at least similar reasons as provided in claims 1 and 17 and for the additional features recited therein. Namely, claim 20 is patentable over Jenkins, Borzi and a combination thereof at least because this claim recites an electronic assembly comprising, *inter alia*, a molded body formed to encapsulate the wiring harness and to cover a portion of each of the plurality of connectors, the molded body including a base portion that extends between the plurality of connectors. As mentioned previously, these features are absent in Jenkins and Borzi. As such, any reasonable combination of Jenkins and Borzi cannot result in any way in the invention of claim 20.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Jenkins in view of Borzi are respectfully requested.

Claims 21-24 are newly added to define additional subject matter that is novel and non-obvious. Claims 21-24 are patentable for at least similar reasons as provided above in claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein.

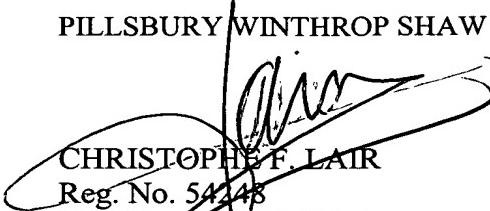
Applicants have addressed the Examiner's rejection and objection and respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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